Stamps of India Collectors Companion

The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India Mar 8, 2012 | Published Every Thursday | Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan | #513

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Jhingans Jottings

Hi,

This changing season has brought many changes in our lives, the sad news seems to have accumulated and reached us all at once. The loss of near and dear ones is always difficult to bear and when one has to bear many such losses together it is a difficult time and the support of friends is what pulls you thru. It is also a time to count your blessings and we once again thank all our friends and associates for their support.

Until next week, please enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Dipok dey, K C Gupta, Sunil Joseph,

We invite your inputs writeback@stampsofindia.com

Rest In Peace - Ajoy Bagchi

Ajoy Bagchi, who would have turned 81 on March 9, 2012, passed away on March 5, 2012 at New Delhi. A visionary and a very fine human being, admired by each and every person who came into contact with him. A great administrator who interpreted the rules in a practical manner to find a workable solution acceptable to all concerned.

He superannuated in 1989 as the Member of the Postal Services Board, Ministry of Communications, Government of India . Thereafter he served as the Executive Director of People's Commission on

Environment and Development and Member of the Governing Board, Auroville Foundation, Pondicherry.

Our association with Ajoy Bagchi goes back to 1977 when he took over as the head of the Philatelic Division at India Post's national headquarters. Till then Indian philately was carrying on with a plan made in 1967. He with his vision, motivational and inspirational leadership and capability to take decisions gave a new direction to Indian philately.

He was easily accessible, and one could simply walk into his office without an appointment and without having to wait at his personal secretary's office that still is the norm in government offices in India. He liked his table clean and cleared all the files on the same day. He reorganized the working of the Philatelic Division to get substantially increased output from his team of Director, Assistant Director General, and Section Officer working with him. He freely gave praise and acknowledged the work put in by others. He gave opportunities to his subordinates to travel abroad on official work instead of monopolizing the same for himself.

It was during his tenure that India Post issued a record number of 5 thematic sets. He roped in famed artists M F Hussain and S H Raza; famed photographers Bedi Brothers to give their works for postage stamp designs at a time when India Post used to pay a small amount of Rs 2,000 per design and that did not attract good artist to submit their designs. But he charmed these greats to join hands not for the money but for the pride of seeing their work on the paper ambassadors of India. He also introduced Dipok Dey to design stamps for India Post.

Ajoy Bagchi had an interesting story to tell about each and every stamp that he was involved with. His eye for details brought qualitative improvements not only in stamps, but also in First Day covers, Folders, Special Covers, and Postmarks. In addition posters and leaflets to publicize Indian stamps were also brought out. Philately was very close to his heart and he used to keep himself updated on the latest developments in the field. He played a significant role in holding of national and international philatelic exhibitions in 1977, 1980, 1986, and 1989.

He had expressed a desire to contribute to philately full time as an editor of a philatelic journal after his retirement from India Post in 1989 however Dr Karan Singh with whom he had a long association since 1973 involved him as Executive Director of People's Commission on Environment and Development. This association began in 1973 when he was deputed from India Post to escort Dr Karan Singh for a visit to the international philatelic exhibition in New Delhi. From this very first meeting developed a close relationship that lasted a life time. Soon after this meeting Dr Singh, then a minister in Government of India, asked India Post to give him Ajoy Bagchi on deputation.

He once told us that he has enjoyed working at each one of his assignment but the 3 most favorite postings of his career were at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration Mussoorie, as Deputy Director General Philately, and as Director of Postal Staff College. In each of these he excelled and his colleagues even today recount his achievements.

Once we were talking to a former officer of India Post whom we had met for the first time, and were discussing the officers we knew in common and the name of Ajoy Bagchi came up and we mentioned that he has been our Guru. "Well, he has been Guru to many", said the officer.

He was actively involved with us for the Stamps of India National Exhibition 2010 & 2011 and guided us on how to conduct the exhibition. He stood by us at the inauguration of the 2010 exhibition with Dr. Karan Singh.

We shall miss our Guru, mentor, friend, philosopher and guide and cherish the memories of our association with him.

Stamp Issues in 2012

India Post has not yet released its Program of Issue for 2012 as the Minister of Commubnications & Information Technology has been busy, first with defending the Governemnt in the Parliament in the December session and afterwords with the elections in 5 states that have just been concluded. From the time of first Prime Minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru to Indira Gandhi and to Rajiv Gandhi, philately used to get as much importance as the entire Postal Department itself. Nehru and Indira Gandhi took personal interst in almost all stamp issues released in thier time. In the post Rajiv Gandhi period philately has been increasingly losing its importance in the Governement of India where not even the Minister incharge gives the reuired attention, what to say of the Prime Minister.

Following stamps are expected to be issued in 2012 : Jan 02: Puran Chandra Gupta Jan 15: Bhai Jagta Ji Jan 24: Shyam Narayan Singh Feb 09: India International Centre Feb 24: Employee's State Insurance Corporation Mar 01: Vasant Dada Patil Mar 09: Shyam Charan Shukla Mar 14: First Commercial Flight Mar 24: Isbella Thoburn College Kapur Chand Kulish M B Kadadi **R** Venkatraman Captain Durga Prasad Chaudhary Jhule Lal Gyan Sagar Ji Maharaj Adi Jagadguru Sri Sri Shivrathri Swamiji Peerzada G A Mahzoor Moti Lal Nehru Ram Gopal Maheswari Godi Ji Temple of Paidhoni Indo Tibetan Border Police Force 25 Years of Consumer Protection Act Government College, Ajmer Philately Day 800 Years of Urs of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, Ajmer Dargah Wild Ass of Ladakh, Wild Ass of Kutch (2) Asiatic Black Bear and other wild animals (4) Wall Paintings - Shekhawat Paintings, Warli Paintings (2) Tribal Dwellings (4) Indian Metal Crafts (2) Light Houses of India - Light House of Alleppy and others (4) Step Wells of India - Maharaja Agrasen ki Baoli, New Delhi and others (4) Transport - Railway Bridges (4) Boats of India (4) Musicians - Panditb Malikarjun Mansur, Kumar Gandharva, Gangubai Hangal, D.K.Pattammal (4) Traditional Embroideries of India - Chikankari, Kutchi, Kashmiri, Kantha (4) Flowers of India (2) Armed Forces Medical College(AFMC), Airborne Warning and Control System(AWACS) (2) India-Israel Joint Issue - Festival of Lights (2) Nov 14: Children's Day (2)

Forthcoming Stamp Issues

Mar 09: Shyama Charan Shukla Mar 14: First Commercial Flight Mar 24: Isabella Thoburn College Lucknow

New issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs 2 each, are put on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Philatelic Counters in India.

Now days, issues are scheduled and rescheduled for release at very short notice say couple of days! Thus it is impossible to inform our readers thru this weekly publication about forthcoming stamp issues of India. We however do our best to publish this information on the home page of <u>www.stampsofindia.com</u> as soon as it becomes available.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2012stamps.htm

New Stamps Released

Humera Ahmed, Chief Post Master General of Maharashtra Circle of India Post released a commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs 5 on the occasion of the death anniversary of Vasantdada Patil, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, leader of co-operative movement and freedom fighter on March 1, 2012 at Mumbai. Prithviraj Chavan, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Dr Shailini Vasantdada Patil, former Member of Parliament and President of Laxmi Cooperative Bank, Manikrao Thakre, President of Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee, Dr Patangrao Kadam , Harshwardhan Patil, Madhukar Chavan, and Satej Patil, all ministers in Maharashtra Government were also present on the occasion.

He was born in the small village of Padmale, Tasgav taluka, Sangli district on November 13, 1917. Both his parents died on the same day in 1918 during the plague epidemic, leaving him an orphan at the age of one year. He was raised by his grandmother after that. In these circumstances he was unable to study for long. Despite this he was able to achieve outstanding success through his intrinsic capabilities. Hence he is also known as India's less educated yet most intelligent and efficient leader and politician.

He joined the freedom struggle in 1930 at a very tender age and became even more active in the struggle after 1940. During the Quit India Movement of 1942, he participated in activities such as breaking phone wires, burning down post offices, damaging railways and fire pistol bombs in Sangli district to intensify the revolt against the British. He went undercover for a short span during those times. He was imprisoned for three years. In 1943 he got shot in the arm when trying to escape from the prison and his incarceration was extended for attempting to break out.

His most important contribution is the development and spread of the co-operative movement. Through the medium of the cooperatives, he successfully attempted to achieve rural, agricultural and aggro-industrial development. He propagated the growth of dairy and poultry industries. He started various co-operative industries like fertilizer factories, cloth mills, oil mills, paper mills, cement pipe factories, agricultural tool factories and other agro based small scale industries. In 1956-57, he founded the cooperative sugar factory. He was honored with the Padma Bhushan award in 1967 for his outstanding efforts in the cooperative sector.

He got elected as a Member of Parliament representing the district of Sangli in the first election held in India in1952. Thereafter, he continued to represent Sangli in the House of People as well as House of Parliament for the next 25 years. He first became a Minister in 1972. He was elected as Chief Minister of Maharashtra four times between 1977 and 1985. He has also served as the Governor of Rajasthan.

He presided over various organizations such as the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, the National Mill Workers Front and the Maharashtra State Congress.

He founded several medical, engineering and polytechnic institutes which worked on a non-grant basis. This produced revolutionary effects in the field of education. It facilitated educational opportunities for rural students as well as laid the foundation for educational and hence industrial progress.

Sankha Samanta designed the stamp and First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial First Day of Issue postmark. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs 2 each. Security Printing Press, Hyderabad printed 400,000 stamps by wet offset process.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2012stamps.htm

New Issues Availability Status

AWAITED 2008: Aldabra Giant Tortoise, Miniature Sheet 2009: Heritage Jain Temples, Miniature Sheet

Air Mail Postal Notices 1927-1947

Jeffrey Brown has created a detailed subject index of 342 postal notices issued by Indian Post Office between 1927 and 1947. He has graciously provided this fruit of his hard work in spreadsheet format where the user can filter the notices as per his/her interest. This is now available for download at http://www.stampsofindia.com/Host/digitalbookshelf.htm

Recent Special Postmarks

Jan 12: Kolkata, Swami Vivekananda 150th Birth Anniversary Feb 6: Kolkata, Pali Umrigar, Cricketer Feb 10: Kolkata, M A Pataudi, Cricketer Mar 3: Dehradun, Spring Festival

ILLUSTRATED LISTS

Special Postmarks 2011 http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2011pm.htm

Army Postal Service Issues http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/2011aps.htm

ILLUSTRATED LISTS http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/icards-2011.htm

ILLUSTRATED LISTS http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/sb07.htm

My Stamp Update

My Stamp facility will be provided at Kanpur on March 24 and 25, 2012 during district philatelic exhibition.

Auction Action

Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner of Germany will hold their 22nd international public auction from May 8 to 12, 2012. The last date to consign the material for this auction is March 15, 2012 for Single Lots and March 20, 2012 for collections at the latest.

8 Catalogs will be published for this auction as follows: Overseas, Europe, Germany, Collections Vol. 1 and Collections Vol. 2, and the special catalogs - Asia and Numismatics as well as a special edition Rarities.

Contact info@auktionen-gaertner.de for further details.

Indian Air Mail Postage Rates until 1956 on CD

Jeffrey Brown has published this work in print in 2000. It is now made available on a CD where all the original content of the book is reformatted in order to chronologically list the rates to each country in separate files. Wherever possible, the rate is illustrated by an appropriate cover. The CD is priced at GBP 12.50 including postage and packing for the members of the India Study Circle for Philately. Please contact Jeffrey Brown at sedgewell@eclipse.co.uk for your copy.

Stamps of India Online Offers

Stamps of India now bring you useful and unique philatelic items fulfilling a long standing demand of subscribers and friends. These philatelic items can be viewed online and several easy options to make the payment are provided. Visit http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/shop.htm

Stanley Gibbons India Catalog

Stanley Gibbons published the third edition of its India and Indian States Catalog on Aug 20, 2009 at £22.50 equivalent approximately to Indian Rupees 1800. However there was a very special price of Rs 750 for India for this all color 240 page catalog. We distributed it all over India.

THIS CATALOG IS NOW ON SALE AT INCREDIBLE OFFER: BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!!!!!

Please add Rs 50 for packing and postal charges for delivery by registered book post or Rs 200 for packing and postal charges for delivery by Speed post anywhere in India. Rush your orders to **orders@stampsofindia.com** now. The orders will be fulfilled on first come first served basis.

For more information please visit http://www.stampsofindia.com/SG-IN-CAT-2010.htm We also welcome enquiries from bulk buyers.

ILLUSTRATED LISTS Aerogramme & Inland Letter Card | Envelopes | Postcards | Meghdoot PostCard

India Post Proposes to Raise the Tariff

Postal Service Board has finalized the tariff increases and forwarded the same for approval to Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology. The proposal to raise tariffs covers most of the postal services, including Speed Post, money orders, postcards and inland letters. The previous hike in postal rate was 10 years ago in 2002. The Minister is empowered to approve the increase in tariff for Speed Post, however hikes in tariff for the most of the other services needs approval of the Parliament.

India Post has been running at a loss for a number of years. Its deficit in the year ended March 31, 2010 was Rs 66,413.04 million (US\$ 1,328.26 million).

Uttrakhand Introduces eStamps

Alok Kumar Jain, Additional Chief Secretary, launched the e-stamping application on March 2, 2012. E-stamping is a part of the e-governance initiative introduced by the state finance department in association with the Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd. In the first phase, e-stamping will be introduced in the four districts of Dehradun, Haridwar, Udhamsingh Nagar and Nainital. The state government has also roped in 45 branches of the Punjab National Bank in these districts to sell e-stamps. Uttarakhand became the ninth state in the country to launch e-stamping after Maharashtra, Assam, Delhi, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

E-stamping is a computer-based application and a secured electronic way of stamping documents. The prevailing system of physical stamp paper/franking is proposed to be replaced by e-stamping system. The Stock Holding Corporation of India (SHCIL) has been mandated by the Government of India as central record keeping agency for e-stamping.

If you've found this digital newsweekly useful, recommend it to a friend. Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

Forgeries & Frauds Alerts

If you detect forgeries and frauds of Indian philatelic items, report to <u>suspect@stampsofindia.com</u>. The names of volunteers and contributors will not be published, if so desired.

MoneyGram Expands in India

MoneyGram International, a leading global money transfer company, and India Post, the largest distribution postal network in the world, announced on March 6, 2012 that their existing agreement to offer money transfer services through India Post outlets has expanded from an initial 100 locations to more than 650 locations across the country.

India Post and MoneyGram have planned joint marketing initiatives in several Indian states to support the expansion of the service. Through a promotion running in March and April, consumers who collect a MoneyGram transaction at a location of India Post will receive a free alarm clock, while supplies last.

MoneyGram's service is planned to expand to 5,000 India Post locations by 2014.

Solar Lamps on Sale at Post Office

Chennai Circle of India Post is selling solar lamps through 19 post offices across Tamil Nadu. India Post intially started selling solar lamps in Chengalpet from September 2011. In February 2012, post offices in Vellore and Kanchipuram started selling the lamps.

India Post sells three kinds of lamps with LED lights and integrated solar panels that can be charged in the sun. The prices range from Rs 399 to Rs 1,699, and come with high and low settings or a facility to charge mobile phones, depending on the model.

Text ADS Stamps of India Collectors Companion <u>http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/TextAdsTariff.htm</u>

Display Ads www.stampsofindia.com

http://www.stampsofindia.com/other/siteguide/DisplayAdTariff.htm

Recent & Forthcoming Events

Mar 10: New Delhi, 87th Monthly Meet of Delhi Philatelists Time: 2.30 pm Venue: the Spirit Restaurant, E 34, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi

Mar 23-25: New Delhi, Bhartiye Mudra Utsav 2012 Venue: Bhai Veer Singh Sahitya Sadan, Gole Market, New Delhi Organizers: Delhi Coin Society

Mar 24-25: Kanpur, District Philatelic Exhibition Organizers: Kanpur Region of Uttar Pradesh Circle of India Post

May 11-13: Exhibition For Stamps, Coins & Currencies Occasion: 75th Anniversary of the First Stamp Exhibition In Travancore, at YMCA Kottayam in 1937 Organizers: Kottayam Philatelic & Numismatic Society Venue: K P S Menon Hall, near Public Library, Sastri Road, Kottayam, 1 km from Railway Station Sales Stall: Rs 3,500 inclusive of lunch & tea; Only 20 stalls are available Mobile dealers: Rs 1,300 inclusive of lunch & tea Contacts: Sunil Joseph(09446124923), Atish Jain(09447756118)

Meetings of the Philatelic Organizations in India www.stampsofindia.com/info base/clubmeet.htm

<u>South Asia New Issues</u>Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on images, philatelic items issued, philatelic publications, courier and other agreed charges.

VIEWS & OPINIONS

My Memories of Kailash Nath by Anil Dhir

It was sad to hear about the death of Kailash Nath. For me he was one dealer who helped me built up my collection of Early Indian Classics. Kailash Nath was the epitome of a Philatelic Dealer. Every visit of his enriched my collection. Whenever I got his phone call, his shrill effeminate voice would inform me of another gem which he wanted to dispose off. Much as I dissuaded myself, I always found myself picking up stamps that I had never intended to buy.

In many ways Kailash Nath was a maverick, his prices were always different, much away from the market. I remember having missed out the Eric Stadd collection of the Lithos, he had wanted only Rs 250/- for each stamp, the collection had nearly 600 stamps. I picked up many of the classics from him for a song. I still get thrilled remembering the time he delivered the Scinde Dawks to me at the Bhubaneswar railway station. He was on his way to Chennai and gave me a call asking me to come to the Railway station; he handed over the stamps to me in the dead of the night as the train was late.

One instance that I will never forget was the time he came to Bhubaneswar sometime in 2003. He had got hold of a huge collection of early classics and the Rs 25 Edward was something which I wanted. I had gone along with fellow Philatelist Mr. Bijoy Sinha to his hotel room and we had got some stamps. However we could not strike the deal for the Rs 25 Value. Later in the day, Mr. Sinha rang me up and told me that Kailash Nath had rung him up and was inquiring about the Rs 25 Edward as he had found it missing and he was presuming that we had taken it away with the stamps we had purchased. A very agitated Mr. Sinha, who is one of the best Gentlemen Philatelist I have ever known, wanted to go immediately and settle the matter, but I dissuaded him. I rang up Kailash Nath and told him that he must have misplaced it and should look for it in his bags. The it suddenly dawned on me that when we had gone to his room, the electricity was off and while we were looking at the stamps the current had come on and the fan had started. I recollected that some of the stamps were blown off and we had to pick them up and put them back in the stock books.

I reminded Kailash Nath of this and asked him to look on the floor and under the bed, but he told me that he had already done so and did not find anything. He was very agitated and was insisting that we may have carried off the stamps unknowingly. I went to his hotel in the evening to calm him, however I was sure that he had misplaced it somewhere. While there, he explained to me that he had left for Cuttack and on his return discovered the stamp was missing. I called the hotel manager and he told me that the room had been cleaned in the afternoon. Somehow in the back of my mind I had a feeling that the stamp must have been removed when the room was cleaned. The manager called the lady who had swept the room and she said that she remembered picking up some stamps which she had taken along with the other garbage and put in the garbage chute. The room was on the fourth floor, so torch in hand we went down to the basement and rummaged the garbage. Lo and behold !, the Rs 25 Edward along with half a dozen other stamps were extricated from the garbage. Fortunately not much damage had been done , and a very sheepish Kailash Nath begged for forgiveness. I asked him to apologise to Mr. Sinha, but he was afraid to do so. I informed Mr. Sinha, and he wanted to give a piece of his mind but in the end it was all's well that ends well. However

the fallout of the episode was that Mr. Sinha never met his again, even though Kailash Nath would call him up whenever he was in town.

The Scinde Collection of eight stamps that he had sold to me too had a very interesting story. The Stamps were from the collection of an ex-Royal from a small Feudatory State in Uttar Pradesh. The said gentlemen was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and would have to undergo surgery with little chances of success. He was selling off his entire collection, and Kailash Nath knew I was looking out for the Scinde Dawks. He wanted a cash and carry deal, but I was a bit wary as the Genuiness Certificate was not there. Kailash Nath told me that the stamps were genuine and that I could take his guarantee for it. I took a call and paid him upfront, the amount and the Stamps exchanged hands at 2 A.M. in the night on Platform No 4 of Bhubaneswar Railway Station.

After getting the Stamps I had sent them to London and got the Authenticity Certified from RPSL. I informed this to him and we was pleased as his stand was vindicated. A year later Kailash Nath approached me and told me that he wanted to buy back the Stamps as the original owner had recovered after a successful surgery. He was willing to pay me a premium along with the Certificate Fee. I rightly refused and they now formed a pride of my collection. For one full year, he would ring me up and keep on raising the price, but I still stood fast. He then told me that could I at least give up one each of the White and Blue, as I had multiples. During one trip he got a hand written plaintive letter from the original owner asking me to return the stamps as he had recovered. I had my doubts, and told Kailash Nath that I would come to Varanasi and meet the person and only then decide. However, the stamps are still with me and I shall always remember Kaliash Nath for enriching my collection.

Kalaish Nath's life has been sealed, signed, stamped and delivered to the almighty. The philatelists in heaven must be a happier lot now. May his soul rest in peace.

Readers Forum

Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve this digital newsweekly. Please let us have your thoughts and suggestions.

Features & Resources

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately <u>http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm</u>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm

NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

ADMINISTRIVIA

The **Stamps of India Collectors Companion** is published by <u>Madhukar Jhingan</u> for **Stamps of India**, 49-D, BG-5, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063. India. Mobile: +91-9350537037

Subject to Delhi Jurisdiction

The **Stamps of India Collectors Companion** received **Silver Medal with the Felicitations of the Jury** at BELGICA 2001 World Philatelic Exhibition, Brussels, June 9-17, 2001.

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Princely States Report <u>http://www.princelystates.com/</u> Journal of Indian States History, Philately & Numismatics

Stamps on India <u>http://www.stampsonindia.com/</u> The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

Reprints of Rare & Out of Print Official Publications of Indian Post Office & Indian Princely States http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/2Reprints.htm Postal Manuals, Postal Guides, Annual and other Reports, Postal Notices & Circulars

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